

NOTE

Bleekeria compta: A New Binomial for a Hawaiian Apocynaceous Tree

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THE SMALL VARIABLE TREE called the *holei* by the Polynesian natives occurs in the drier portions of the Hawaiian Islands. In the scientific literature it has been referred to most frequently as *Ochrosia sandwicensis*, but unfortunately this long-used binomial cannot be maintained. Alphonse DeCandolle (Prodr. 8:357, 1844) proposed the name, but his original description ("foliis obtusiusculis, bracteis basi denticulatis") and the cited synonymy (*Cerbera parviflora* sensu Hook. and Arn.) indicate that he was again describing *Rauvolfia sandwicensis*, which he had first published earlier in the same work (Prodr. 8:339, 1844). Hillebrand (Fl. Haw. Is.: 295, 1888), Schumann (Pflanzenfam. IV, 2:153, 156, 1895), Rock (Indigenous Trees Haw. Is.: 409, 413, 1913), however, all recognized the actual identity of DeCandolle's species and therefore attributed the name *O. sandwicensis* to Asa Gray. Gray (Proc. Am. Acad. 5:333, 1861) misunderstood DeCandolle's concept of the species, and applied the name to the *holei* and not to the *hao* (*Rauvolfia sandwicensis*), as did DeCandolle. Gray's usage, of course, has no nomenclatural validity. Hillebrand (Fl. Haw. Is.: 297, 1888) described a little-known variant from the Nuuanu Valley of Oahu as the β variety of *Ochrosia sandwicensis* A. Gray, while Schumann (Pflanzenfam. IV, 2:153, 156, 1913), after examining Hillebrand's specimen at Berlin, considered it a distinct species and provided the binomial *O. compta*. For those who, like Fosberg (in Zimmerman's Insects of Hawaii 1:114, 1948), recognize only one species within the variable Hawaiian populations and whose concept of *Ochrosia* includes those species with

a nonfibrous mesocarp, the proper binomial is *Ochrosia compta* K. Sch.

Recent students of the Pacific flora, such as Koidzumi (Bot. Mag. Tokyo 37:52, 1923), Markgraf (Engler's Bot. Jahrb. 61:168, 1928), Merrill and Perry (J. Arn. Arb. 24:213, 1943), and Smith (Bull. Torrey Club 70:549, 1943), have accepted as genera the two groups recognized by earlier workers as sections or subgenera of *Ochrosia*. The entire group sorely needs monographic attention, but until this needed task is accomplished it would seem best to follow those students whose more detailed studies have convinced them of the generic distinctness of the two groups of species.

The Hawaiian species belongs to the group with nonfibrous mesocarps and with a conspicuous longitudinal cavity in the remnant of the partition of the fruit. It is therefore a *Bleekeria*. Koidzumi (Bot. Mag. Tokyo 37:52, 1923) first recognized this and provided the new combination *Bleekeria sandwicensis*. Koidzumi's binomial cannot be salvaged, under the provisions of Article 72 of the International Code (Reg. Veget. 23:52, 1961), since there is an available legitimate specific epithet: *Ochrosia compta* K. Sch. Therefore a new combination under *Bleekeria* is necessary.

Bleekeria compta (K. Sch.) comb. nov.

Ochrosia sandwicensis β var. Hbd., Fl. Haw. Is.: 297, 1888.

Ochrosia compta K. Sch., Nat. Pflanzenf. IV, 2:156, 1895.

Bleekeria sandwicensis (sensu A. Gray [non A.DC]) Koidz., Bot. Mag. Tokyo 37:52, 1923.

The type of this species was undoubtedly lost in the bombing of Berlin in 1943. Schumann based the species upon Hillebrand's specimen

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and description, indicating that it differed from the verticillate-leaved "*O. sandwicensis* A. Gray" in possessing opposite leaves and a more densely-flowered inflorescence. Rock (Indigenous Trees Haw. Is.:414, 1913) admitted that he had not encountered the opposite-leaved species but expressed doubt as to its specific dis-

tinctness. The variable Hawaiian populations merit careful appraisals, but this of necessity will require much field study. It is felt that a legitimate name for the Hawaiian species should be made available now. The designation of a neotype can well await the necessary detailed study.